



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Governor Schweitzer Signs an Agreement Extending Montana's Unemployment Benefits**

Governor Schweitzer signed an agreement today that gives an estimated 8,500 unemployed Montanans access to the unemployment benefit extension recently passed by congress. "The agreement provides much needed assistance to Montana workers who are unemployed and will give an additional boost to the Montana economy," said Governor Brian Schweitzer.

The provisions of the extension allow for an additional four to thirteen weeks of benefits to individuals who have exhausted an Unemployment claim on or after May 1, 2007 and who are not eligible to begin a new Unemployment Insurance claim. Because the extension is federally funded there is no cost to employers.

Montana Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Keith Kelly says, "the extension helps those Montanans who are having a hard time finding employment in some parts of our economy and at the same time provide an economic stimulus to our Main Street businesses."

Claimants who could be eligible for the benefits will be notified by mail and can call or file beginning July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. To inquire about the extension of the program or to file a claim, individuals log onto [UI4U.mt.gov](http://UI4U.mt.gov) or they can contact the Unemployment Insurance Claims Center at (406) 444-2545 in the Helena area or (406) 247-1000 in the Billings area.

The Unemployment Benefits Extension is part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, War Supplemental bill, recently passed by Congress and signed by the President.

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